Unlawful Distribution Of Images

NAUPD would like to make you aware of a recent trend in the unlawful distribution of images. NAUPD has seen a trend and has recently taken reports where sexually explicit photos are being used to blackmail victims into paying money to avoid the release of their photos. In most cases, the victim sends sexually explicit or revealing photos to someone they met or are chatting with over social media (most commonly Instagram). Typically, explicit photos are also sent to the victim in exchange for their photos. Screenshots are taken of the victim’s photos and they are threatened with release of the photos to their family members unless they produce a sum of money. In at least one recent case, the photos were released to family members of the victim.

Please take note of the tips offered below regarding what to do in the event you become a victim of this type of crime and how to avoid this possibility.

If you have any information related to these criminal offenses, please contact the NAU Police Department at (928) 523-3611.

SAFETY TIPS

- Avoid sending sexually explicit or revealing photos or videos to people you have never met and don’t personally know.
- If you are sent unsolicited photos of this nature, do not reciprocate.
- If you find yourself a victim of this activity, block the user that you exchanged photos/videos with and call police.
- Report all suspicious activity to the police department.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation feels unsafe, remove yourself from it.